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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Letter dated 15 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on Nepal issued on 8 May 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a General Assembly document, under agenda item 35.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 15 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on Nepal issued on 8 May 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union expresses its deep concern at the worsening security situation in Nepal and the continuing violence and brutal attacks against civilians by the Maoists. The European Union condemns the use of violence and intimidation and calls upon the Maoists to end their terror tactics, to disarm and to pursue their goals through negotiation and the political process in good faith. The European Union specifically deplores Maoist attacks against civil infrastructures, which severely harm the development of Nepal.

These events threaten Nepal's stability and undermine its democratic system. The European Union strongly supports the right of the people of Nepal to continue to enjoy and consolidate their young democracy and rejects any attempt to take it away from them.

The European Union endorses the efforts of the Government of Nepal to urge the Maoists to return to the negotiating table in good faith in order to achieve a peaceful and sustainable political resolution of the present crisis. At the same time, the European Union exhorts the Government of Nepal and its security forces to avoid all action which might lead to innocent civilians becoming victims of the conflict. Nepalese authorities are expected to remain vigilant of human rights abuses by government agencies or security forces under the present state of emergency regulations.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.